

Application No.: 09/735,519
Amendment dated December 7, 2004
Reply to final Office Action dated September 8, 2004

Docket No.: 8733.350.00-US

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the present application. The final Office Action dated September 8, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

By this Response, claims 1 and 26 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-3, 6-14, 16-17, 19, 21, 22, 24, 26-30, 32, 33, 35 and 36 are pending in the application. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 6-17, 19, 21, 22, 26-30, 32, 33 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. As a preliminary matter, Applicant respectfully notes previously cancelled claim 15 has been including in the listing of pending claims, and claim 24 was omitted. Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 26. Accordingly, the rejection is overcome. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If the Examiner deems that a telephone conversation would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 496-7500.

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If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: December 7, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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